

**COUNTY COUNCIL OF CECIL COUNTY
LEGISLATIVE SESSION MINUTES
LSD 2021-22
November 16, 2021**

The County Council of Cecil County met in legislative session at the County Administration Building, 200 Chesapeake Blvd., Elk Room, Elkton, MD. The following members of the Council were present:

Robert Meffley, Council President
William H. Coutz, Council Member
Councilman Al Miller, Member
Absent: Jackie Gregory
Vacant, Council Member

NOTE: The recording with transcription of this meeting is available on the County website at www.ccgov.org/council.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the County Council of Cecil County of November 16, 2021 was called to order by Council President Meffley at 7:00 p.m. Council President Meffley led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

OPENING PRAYER

Council Member Miller introduced Chaplain (Lt Col) John Groth, USAF, Ret., from Hopewell United Methodist Church in Port Deposit, who led the opening prayer.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the legislative agenda of November 16, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, the Council moved to approve the minutes of the legislative session of November 2, 2021. Motion was approved unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Tanya Emkey, Aberdeen, commented on issues with the management of Indian Acres.
Heather Lyons, North East, commented in support of backyard chickens.

PRESIDENT AND COUNCIL COMMENTS

Council Members provided their comments during today's Council work session.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Dr. Carl Roberts, Chairman of the Cecil County Redistricting Commission, presented the 2021 Redistricting Plan and report to the Council, which had been submitted to the Council on November 12, 2021. He stated that the Commission, composed of eleven members, met three times to

consider a new redistricting plan, based on the 2020 Census. He stated that the 2020 population of Cecil County is 103,963 and that each councilmanic district should have an average population of 20,793. He stated that the Commission focused on reducing the population in the 2nd councilmanic district and increasing the population in the 1st councilmanic district. Using a deviation standard of 10%, as confirmed by court cases, they suggested that the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Council districts can remain as is. He stated that the Commission's proposal moves 2,043 from the 2nd district to the 1st district, which would be 1,263 current registered voters. Dr. Roberts explained that the Commission used the criteria of compactness, contiguousness and substantially equal to evaluate eleven suggested redistricting variations. He stated that the Commission's proposed plan has a deviation of 5.12%, which is lower than the 10% maximum standard deviation. He stated that the Commission approved this proposal by a vote of seven to four. He thanked the Commission members for their time and efforts in achieving this proposal. He also thanked county staff for their support.

Council questions and comments ensued. The Council thanked Dr. Roberts for his leadership and success in proposing the new plan that meets the established criteria.

A public hearing on the proposed redistricting plan is scheduled on Tuesday, December 7 at 7pm during the Council legislative session.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Council President Meffley stated that Vice President Gregory, sponsor of **Bill No. 2021-16 Amendment – Zoning Ordinance – Animal Husbandry – Backyard Chickens**, is postponing introduction so that the legislation can be revised to reflect suggestions from the Planning Commission. This legislation will be introduced at a later date.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 55-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Grants – Sheriff's Office – Crime Control and Prevention

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, in order to provide a total of \$95,000 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Sheriff's Office-Law Enforcement to record the grant awarded from the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention for the purpose of attracting and retaining qualified Deputies to join the Cecil County Sheriff's Office.

This Resolution was introduced and posted on November 2, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on November 16, 2021.

James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Coutz moved to approve Resolution No. 55-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Gregory-absent, Meffley-Y.

The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0. Vice President Gregory was absent.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 56-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Grants – Economic Development – Online Sales and Teleworking

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022 in order to provide a total of \$85,136 to the Special Revenue Other Grants Fund- Office of Economic Development, to record the grant awarded from the Maryland Department of Commerce, for the purpose of allowing the County to make grants to businesses to assist the businesses in setting up an online sales framework and offering employees telework opportunities.

This Resolution was introduced and posted on November 2, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on November 16, 2021.

Steve Overbay, Acting Director of Administration, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Miller moved to approve Resolution No. 56-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Gregory-absent, Meffley-Y.

The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0. Vice President Gregory was absent.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 57-2021 Supplemental Appropriation – Fund Balance – Volunteer Fire Service – Vehicle Replacement Program

A Resolution to amend the Annual Budget and Appropriation Ordinance for Cecil County, Maryland, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2022, to provide the Volunteer Fire Service Department's budget within the General Fund, expenditure appropriation authority to authorize \$575,000 to be expended for the County's match portion towards the Vehicle Replacement Program.

This Resolution was introduced and posted on November 2, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on November 16, 2021.

James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Coutz moved to approve Resolution No. 57-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Miller.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Gregory-absent, Meffley-Y.

The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0. Vice President Gregory was absent.

Council Manager Massey stated for the record:

Resolution No. 58-2021 Approval – MRI Software – Multiple Year Agreement

A Resolution to approve a three (3) year agreement between the County and MRI Software LLC to purchase software licenses and maintenance in the amount of \$57,858.

This Resolution was introduced and posted on November 2, 2021 and scheduled for consideration on November 16, 2021.

James Appel, Finance Director, provided comments. There were no Council questions or comments.

Councilman Miller moved to approve Resolution No. 58-2021, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Gregory-absent, Meffley-Y.

The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0. Vice President Gregory was absent.

OLD BUSINESS

Council President Meffley stated that Councilman Patchell had resigned his Council seat as of October 17, 2021. As specified by the Charter of Cecil County, the Republican Central Committee has submitted three nominees for the vacant Council seat in the 4th councilmanic district. He stated that the Council must appoint someone within thirty days of the vacancy, which is today. He asked Council Members for a motion.

Councilman Coutz made a motion to appoint Donna Culberson to fill the Council seat of the 4th councilmanic district. Councilman Miller seconded the motion.

Roll call vote: Coutz-Y, Miller-Y, Gregory-absent, Meffley-Y.

The motion was approved by a vote of 3 to 0. Vice President Gregory was absent.

NEW BUSINESS

Cecil County Public Schools – Budget Amendment #92

Councilman Miller made a motion to approve Budget Amendment #92, in the amount of \$14,884,457 for October 2021, which was seconded by Councilman Coutz. The Council unanimously approved the motion by a voice vote of 3 to 0. Vice President Gregory was absent.

ADJOURNMENT

On motion made by Councilman Coutz, seconded by Councilman Miller, Council President Meffley adjourned the meeting at 7:32 p.m.

Council President Meffley announced that the next Council Legislative Session is scheduled on Tuesday, December 7, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. in the Elk Room of the County Administration Building. The public may attend and participate. The legislative session will continue to be livestreamed in real time at the county's webpage at www.ccgov.org/council. The recording and transcription will be uploaded to the county's website as soon as possible.

Approved:


Robert Meffley
Council President

Attest:


James Massey
Council Manager